

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-14, and 18-20 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 11-14, and 18-20; and cancelled claims 3-4, 10, 15-17, and 21-31. No claims have been added in this Amendment. Of the pending claims, claims 1 and 18 are the only independent claims.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004, the Examiner objected to claims 29-31 for improper dependency. Claims 29-31 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,892,508 issued to Howe ("Howe"). The Applicant believes that the claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 18 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Howe.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1, is a system for managing the intercommunication of provisioning-related data between interconnected provisioning systems in an interactive television (ITV) network. Amended independent claim 18 recites an associated ITV provisioning apparatus.

As recited in amended independent claim 1, the system generally includes an ITV provisioning manager, a plurality of ITV network components, and an ITV client device.

The ITV provisioning manager has a plurality of interfaces. The ITV network components include an IP provisioning system, a subscriber management billing system, an ITV service server, and a customer service center.

Each ITV network component has an associated provisioning system. The associated provisioning systems of the ITV network components are individually connected to respective ones of the interfaces of the ITV provisioning manager in order for the associated provisioning systems of the ITV network components and the ITV provisioning manager to communicate provisioning-related data with one another for the ITV provisioning manager to manage provisioning of the ITV network components.

The ITV client device has an associated provisioning system connected to at least one of the ITV network components in order for provisioning-related data to be communicated between the associated provisioning system of the ITV client device and the ITV network manager via the associated provisioning system of the at least one of the ITV network components connected to the ITV client device for the ITV provisioning manager to manage provisioning of the ITV client device. The associated provisioning system of the ITV client device is individually connected to a respective one of the interfaces of the ITV provisioning manager in order for the associated provisioning system of the ITV client device and the ITV provisioning manager to communicate provisioning-related data directly with one another for the ITV provisioning manager to manage provisioning of the ITV client device. The ITV client device is associated with a subscriber of the ITV network.

2. The Claimed Invention Compared to Howe

The claimed invention generally differs from Howe in that the claimed ITV provisioning manager provides a single point of access and management to all provisioning-related data associated with an individual subscriber of an ITV network by being configured to communicate with the provisioning systems of the ITV network components (the ITV network components including an IP provisioning system, a subscriber management billing

system, an ITV service server, and a customer service center) and the ITV client device of the subscriber which together make up the ITV network.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that amended independent claims 1 and 18 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Howe. Claims 2, 5-9, and 11-14 depend from amended independent claim 1 and include the limitations therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection to claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-14, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The Examiner rejected claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howe in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,615,408 issued to Kaiser et al. Claims 19-20 depend from amended independent claim 18 and include the limitations therein. Claim 21 has been cancelled. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-2, 5-9, 11-14, and 18-20, as amended, meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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